

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Florida.

As a sponsor of this resolution, I join our distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and I am happy to help bring this publication to fruition. It has been a pleasure for me to work with the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) on this and other such collaborative matters as they regard the history of our great institution and the history of this Capitol.

The gentleman from Ohio will recall that we worked together in developing a history of the House, and his long-standing appreciation of the history of this great institution of ours and history in general go a long way towards keeping those relationships that accrue on our committee and throughout this institution at a level of deep understanding about the process and the procedure that goes on in this glorious building on a regular basis.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) has outlined the importance of Glenn Brown's landmark two-volume History of the United States Capitol. Clearly, history should be updated from time to time, especially with the kind of annotated pictures that we can now provide for people, which yet unfolds the richness of this great institution and this marvelous building.

People that come to work here on a daily basis and those that visit the Capitol cannot help but be in awe of the marble and the alabaster of Statuary Hall and all the great symbolism and history represented here. So for us not to make sure that these publications continue to go forward and further enlighten and provide historical research and data about our institution would be a travesty.

Therefore, I am delighted to join with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and again want to applaud the outstanding leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) and his willingness to collaborate on this specific publication, an interest that is both near and dear to both of our hearts with regard to historic preservation.

For more than two centuries, this Capitol has stood as a shrine to our democracy and a beacon to millions across the globe. We must preserve not only the bricks and mortar of this Capitol but also its history. The volume printed pursuant to this resolution will make a substantial contribution to that preservation. I urge an "aye" vote on this motion.

As the sponsor of the resolution, I join the distinguished chairman in support of his motion, and I am happy to help bring this publication to fruition. It has been a pleasure to work with the chairman in the past 5 years on matters of common interest, especially related to congressional history. The gentleman may re-

call that shortly after he became the chairman of the House Administration Committee, I visited his Longworth office and discussed placing a greater emphasis on the history of this institution. We have had significant success in this respect, as the gentleman had while serving in his state's legislature in Columbus. I look forward to working with the chairman further on history-related matters in the months and years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, the American people revere this historic Capitol, the temple of our democracy, and they are rightly proud of what it has come to represent. In the more than 227 years since our Founding Fathers charted a new course for our civilization, this experiment in self-government has not only survived, but flourished. The ideals symbolized by this Capitol inspire millions around the world, giving hope that they and their descendants may someday enjoy the liberty that Americans cherish.

Over a century ago, Congress celebrated the Capitols' centennial by publishing Glenn Brown's landmark two-volume History of the United States Capitol. Brown's handsome volumes chronicled the development of the Capitol and its art collection to that time. Brown's work set a new standard for architectural history, affecting the development of the Capitol, and of the capital city, in the years that followed.

The Capitol has changed considerably in the last century, and present generation should take care to document those changes and preserve the history of this magnificent structure for the future. Plans for an updated, annotated edition of the Glenn Brown History began as the Capitol's 2000 bicentennial approach, and Congress authorized such a volume in 1993. Today, only the final proof-reading work remains, save for this renewed printing resolution, before the Government Printing Office can proceed to publish.

The new annotated volume will update the Glenn Brown work, correcting errors, adding new historical context and enhanced color photographs, among other improvements. The new edition, prepared by the Architect of the Capitol with the support of the U.S. Capitol Preservation Commission and the U.S. Capital Historical Society, will be published under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing in consulting with the House Clerk and the Senate Secretary. The joint committee plans a single-volume format that is both economical and reader-friendly but, like the original, worthy of this splendid structure.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the motion. This body should ensure preservation of the Capitol's history, just as in 1999, with the gentleman from Ohio's strong support, the House passed my bill authorizing a written history of the House itself. That House history, being written by the distinguished historian Dr. Robert Remini, is well underway. As entertaining as he is learned, Professor Remini participated last November in the Cannon Centenary Conference on the modern speakership. Those fortunate to hear the professor's remarks left both enlightened and eager to read the completed work chronicling the House's role and contributions to America's history.

Mr. Speaker, for more than two centuries this Capitol has stood as a shrine to our democracy and a beacon to millions across the globe. We must preserve not only the bricks and mortar of this Capitol, but also its history.

The volume printed pursuant to this resolution will make a substantial contribution to that preservation, and I urge an "aye" vote on the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, just in conclusion, I am very pleased that we can come together and take care of this housekeeping chore. During the discussion this afternoon on the passage of this resolution I would have liked to have been presented a copy of Mr. Brown's book. I am told the only volumes we have the Architect has, and they are too tattered to even leave his office. So it is time that Congress meet its obligation of preserving the rich history of this great building that is a symbol of liberty and democracy.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield back the balance of my time and ask for passage of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 358.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 358.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### PERMITTING USE OF ROTUNDA OF CAPITOL FOR CEREMONY AS PART OF COMMEMORATION OF DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 359) permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 359

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring).* That the rotunda of the Capitol is authorized to be used on April 22, 2004, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of

victims of the Holocaust. Physical preparations for the ceremony shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of House Concurrent Resolution 359, which permits the Capitol Rotunda to be used for a ceremony as part of the Days of Remembrance commemorating the victims of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, it is necessary to go through this procedure to use the very sacred center of the Capitol for a ceremony and joint authorization by both the House and the other body because of the significance of this particular location and its significance and importance in this building.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is mandated by Congress to educate Americans about the history of the Holocaust and to annually honor and remember the victims of this catastrophic, horrible event, and that is done on the National Days of Remembrance observance. The purpose of the Days of Remembrance is to ask all Americans to reflect on the Holocaust, to remember the victims and to renew and strengthen our commitment to democracy and to human rights for every person.

The very first Days of Remembrance ceremony was held in the United States Capitol Rotunda in the year 1979. It has been held there every year since, except when the Rotunda has been closed for renovations. At last year's National Days of Remembrance observance, Secretary of State Colin Powell gave the keynote address. The theme of this year's Days of Remembrance commemoration is entitled "Justice and Humanity." That title, Justice and Humanity, is in memory of the Jews of Hungary who were deported 60 years ago in the final stages of World War II. The commemoration will honor the courageous individuals, as well as the organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them.

In this country, official response to the mass murder of European Jews and others resulted in the creation of the War Refugee Board in 1944. Established by the Executive Order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the War Refugee Board worked with Jewish organizations, diplomats from neutral countries and resistance groups in Europe to rescue Jews from occupied territories and provide relief to inmates of Nazi concentration camps. Although belated, this action saved thousands of lives, reminding us of the terrible consequences of indifference and of the ability of organizations, individuals and countries to confront and work to halt acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity.

How appropriate I believe it is, Mr. Speaker, at this time that we remember the victims of the World War II Holocaust. It is my hope also that during this ceremony we can reflect upon others who have lost their life to genocide and to murderous regimes. I have often wondered how the world could stand by in World War II and not do more to save people who were headed for extermination camps. Not being alive in that era, I have, however, been alive during an era of other holocausts, such as in Cambodia, where millions literally were murdered in a genocide.

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During my term in office, I remember Rwanda where nearly a million Africans were slaughtered and the world did not come to their aid. And, once again, we remember and we should reflect during our Day of Remembrance on those in Iraq as we uncover hundreds of mass graves throughout that country. Our obligation, whether it is in Asia, Africa or the Middle East, is to make certain that a holocaust does not take place, to make certain that tens of thousands are not murdered by any despot regime.

This ceremony that will be conducted will be the centerpiece of similar remembrance observances to be held throughout our Nation in all 50 States. Members of Congress, government officials, foreign dignitaries, Holocaust survivors and citizens from all walks of life have attended previous commemorations. House Concurrent Resolution 359 provides for the 2004 commemoration to be held in the rotunda on the day of April 22 of this year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of my colleagues for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. Speaker, I rise with a great deal of humility and strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 359, authorizing the use of the Capitol rotunda for the Days of Remembrance ceremony on April 22.

During the week of April 18, similar Holocaust remembrance days will take place all across this country, as the distinguished gentleman from Florida pointed out. As this body has done every year since 1979, Congress will use the historic rotunda location to reflect on one of the most painful moments in all of world history: the Holocaust.

This very special day of remembrance, along with the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, was established by Congress to permanently honor these victims. They were created not only to remember those who perished but also to educate the world about human rights.

The 2004 Days of Remembrance asks us to honor the memory of the Jews of

Hungary, who were deported 60 years ago in the final stages of World War II, and to honor those courageous individuals as well as the few organizations and countries who attempted to rescue them. This year's theme is "For Justice and Humanity." It has specific poignancy for me as a Member from Connecticut, knowing that Hadassah Lieberman's mother was part of that.

I had the honor in Connecticut as Senate President to preside over the Days of Remembrances for 8 years. I often reflect on how solemn and important those ceremonies were, and still are. I can still see the survivors and their family members coming forward to light the candles and the solemnness of the occasion.

Given the current conflicts around the world, it is especially important to remember the message of the Holocaust victims who said, do not forget us. We cannot forget them or the evil that sent them to their deaths. Tragically, we need only to watch the nightly news to realize that this evil still exists in the world.

The ceremony we are authorizing today reminds us that when we respect the lessons of the past, we strengthen the values of every future generation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), my friend, for yielding me this time; and I also want to thank him and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for managing this concurrent resolution. I also, Mr. Speaker, want to thank the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), for permitting me to carry this piece of legislation.

I have had the pleasure for the last 10 years to be a member of the Holocaust Governing Council, one of the five appointed Members of Congress. During my time in Congress I have seen such giants in this institution as Ben Gilman of New York and recently the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) in bringing this resolution to the floor, and it is an honor for me to have the opportunity to be a part of that today.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 359 permits the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to use the Capitol rotunda for the Days of Remembrance observance. This annual event, which takes place in the symbolic heart of our American democracy, honors the victims of the Holocaust and is a reminder to all of us that freedom and liberty have both rights and responsibilities.

Since the opening of the museum and the beginning of the Days of Remembrance sponsored by the museum,

world events have continued to demonstrate that it is imperative that we remember and study the Holocaust. From the violent breakup of Yugoslavia and the cataclysmic terror in Rwanda, to the rise of anti-semitism around the world that continues today, we live in a time when the great strides in human rights made over the last half century are in danger of losing ground to ignorance and intolerance.

That is why the theme of this year's commemoration, "For Justice and Humanity," is so timely. The title comes from a statement made by President Franklin D. Roosevelt who, when he called for the rescue of the Jewish population in Hungary in March of 1944, said, "In the name of justice and humanity, let all freedom-loving people rally to this righteous undertaking." By honoring rescuers along with the victims in this year's commemoration, we are shining a light on the brave acts of individuals and organizations that can teach important lessons today.

Of course, we know that it was too late for many Jews in Hungary in 1944. With the war entering its final stages, Nazi and Hungarian authorities deported about 440,000 Jews. At least half of those were murdered in gas chambers immediately upon their arrival at the labor camp Auschwitz. By the time the Nazis and their Hungarian collaborators were driven out of Hungary in April, 1945, nearly four-fifths of the Hungarian Jewish community had been killed.

Yet there were some individuals, organizations and countries that asserted the value of human life in the face of the systematic murder of men, women and children. The War Refugee Board, established in January of 1944 by President Roosevelt, had the mandate to take "all measures to rescue victims of oppression in imminent danger of death."

Raoul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat based in Hungary, led the War Refugee Board's most extensive rescue efforts by distributing protective Swedish passports or travel papers to tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews. Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat, issued certificates of emigration, placing nearly 50,000 Jews in Budapest under Swiss protection. Italian businessman Giorgio Perlasca issued forged visas and established safe houses. When Budapest was liberated in February of 1945, more than 100,000 Jews still remained in the city because of the efforts of Wallenberg, Lutz, Perlasca and other diplomats and individuals. The War Refugee Board played a crucial role in the rescue of as many as 200,000 Jews in German-occupied Europe.

This year, as we commemorate the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust, we also pay tribute to the rescuers for their courageous efforts rallying "to this righteous undertaking."

The first visit that I had to the Holocaust Museum following my election in 1994, I was taken around by the son of

a Holocaust survivor; and there are two exhibits that I would commend to my colleagues on their next visit. One was a temporary exhibit that detailed the sailing of the steamship *St. Louis* and how that boat was turned from port to port to port as no one would take the Jews into their country.

The second is the failed conference that took place in Avignon, France, where countries from around the world, aware of the "Jewish problem" during the Second World War and some of the solutions that Nazi Germany was prepared to undertake, country after country declined to take affirmative action to take Jewish immigrants into its borders, the United States being one of them.

As we ponder not only the Days of Remembrance, I hope that we as legislators also learn the lessons of the *St. Louis* and the conference at Avignon; and I would ask all of my colleagues to join us in supporting House Concurrent Resolution 359.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I would like to close on this particular resolution before the House, a simple resolution to allow the use of the rotunda for this ceremony. But when we enter the rotunda, the sacred center of the Capitol building on April 22, it is important that we do remember those victims who were lost in this horrific slaughter of human beings in World War II. We remember, as the gentleman from Ohio said so eloquently, that there were incidents like the turning away of the steamship *St. Louis* that went from port to port, and hundreds met a horrible fate because of the nations, and even the United States, who turned their backs.

The good Lord gave the United States the responsibility now, as the superpower of the world, an important responsibility that we should not lose sight of.

So as we reflect upon those victims, as we reflect upon those who ignored their responsibility, and as we recognize our responsibility in the world today, it is important that again we reflect at this time on what occurred, what was done, and what was left undone, and that we also make certain as we reflect on April 22 that we do not allow a holocaust of our time.

So with those comments, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for House Concurrent Resolution 359, permitting the use of the rotunda of the Capitol to commemorate the Days of Remembrance of victims of the holocaust.

It is appropriate that we commemorate those who perished during the Holocaust. It is also important that we not forget that genocide and human rights abuses continue to occur elsewhere around the world. As the leader of the Free World, the United States must use its

power and influence to bring stability to the world. History serves as a lesson to all, and we must ensure that the horrors of the Holocaust must never happen again.

I am proud to be a founding trustee of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and am pleased that a growing number of community-based Holocaust museums around the country are a reflection of our increasing awareness of the lessons of the Holocaust. Only when every person understands the magnitude of death, destruction, and utter horrors of the Holocaust can we feel we have done everything to prevent its recurrence.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Con. Res. 359, to allow the use of the Capitol Rotunda for a ceremony to commemorate victims of the Holocaust. Our Nation's Capitol is a symbol of freedom and democracy to so many. This resolution gives us a forum to pay service to the victims of the Holocaust. I pray that such a tragedy should never touch the world again.

A Holocaust memorial is not something to be taken lightly, or to be rushed without its due respect. The Holocaust is a product of authoritarian government and evil intentions, and we must continue to study and remember it, lest it be repeated. Hate, genocide, racial supremacism still occur in parts of the world and I believe that we as Americans can still focus our efforts on stopping them before they grow to an uncontrollable magnitude.

My heart goes out to the victims and survivors of Adolf Hitler's death camps. Every time I reexamine the Holocaust, and pay tribute to what happened, I am still shocked and pained by the organized, methodical killing that went on in Europe.

For the 12 million people that Nazi Germany exterminated, we must remember. For each of the six million Jews killed, we must respond. For the Gypsies, the gays, the political dissenters and any of the righteous people who spoke out against what they thought was evil—for this we commemorate and remember the Holocaust. It can never happen again.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 359.

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The yeas and nays were ordered.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

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